

Walter Hampden Overton to Andrew Jackson, September 26, 1810, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

W. H. OVERTON TO JACKSON.

Cantonment Washington, September 26, 1810

sir . My long absence from your part of the country and my remote situation heretofore which debarred me from all communications, together with that respect which I have always had for you and your good lady induces me to drop you a line. you no doubt have heard ere this of the internal commotion of East florida¹ on the 23d the Americans declared themselves independent and on that day two hundred and fifty of them, marched and that night took posses[s]ion of Baton Rouge. Killed the commanding officer a mr Grand-pre and a few Spanish soldiers, without losing a man they are headed by a Genl Thomas formerly of Kentucky they also have the governor Lasuse² in Irons, Governor Folk is now

1 Meaning, West Florida.

2 Delassus.

marching to meet them in a few days we shall have the particulars of that battle it is said Folk has five hundred men you have no idea of the anxiety of the army over to assist their brave countrymen in taking posses[s]ion of that Elegant part of this country, which our non energetic government long since purchased. the Governor of this territory has ordered out a part of the militia to be stationed on the line to prevent any intercourse and to obstruct the negroes from passing to the assistance of Either a part of our troops I think will be requested also, and there is but little doubt of the request being granted, as we are panting

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for Exercise. If you have never visited this country I think Sir it would be even worth your while as it is much the finest I have ever seen, this Sir is the place for making fortunes, I have persuaded my father much to remove here but he pays no attention to my entreaties. I think were you to see this country you would move the whole neighborhood. pray Sir favor me with a scroll, present my best respects to Mrs Jackson and Believe to be with the highest Esteem, your friend . . .